

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CEA-01 AID-05 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 FRB-03 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

----- 004065

R 230900Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 646

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PASS USDA/FAS/THORBURN, SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS DIV.

EM O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RP

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BENEDICTO AGAIN DEFENDS GOP SUGAR POLICY

REF: MANILA 16435

1. DAILY EXPRESS, USING A PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY RELEASE, QUOTED AMBASSADOR ROBERTO S. BENEDICTO, DECEMBER 23, AS ASSURING THE VICTORIAS PLANTERS COMMITTEE, INC. IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL THAT THE PHILIPPINES CAN SELL ALL ITS SUGAR AT BETTER PRICES IN THE WORLD MARKET. THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN REPORTEDLY PREDICTED A HIGHER DEMAND FOR SUGAR DUE TO DWINDLING SUPPLY OCCASIONED BY DROUGHT AND FROST IN SEVERAL PRODUCING COUNTRIES, CITING BY NAME ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CUBA AND SANTO DOMINGO.

2. AMBASSADOR BENEDICTO WAS ALSO QUOTED AS STATING THAT CONSUMING COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES ARE TRYING TO PULL PRICES DOWN. HE NOTED MASSIVE CAMPAIGN AMONG AMERICANS TO MINIMIZE SUGAR INTAKE WHICH AFFECTED SUGAR CONSUMPTION ABOUT 20 PERCENT. SPEECH WAS ALSO REPORTED

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ON TV CHANNEL 9 ON DECEMBER 23.

3. THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF THE REACTION AMONG HIS LISTENERS, ALL OF WHOM WERE SUGAR PLANTERS AWARE OF THE GROWING INVENTORY OF MILLED RAW SUGAR AND NO RECENT LARGE SALES OR MOVEMENTS OUT OF COUNTRY. FROM REPORTS OF TRAVELLERS AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS, THE PLANTERS ARE APPARENTLY KEEPING THEIR HEADS DOWN AND TRYING TO MILL AS MUCH OF THEIR CANE AS POSSIBLE AND EXCHANGE THEIR WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS FOR HARD CASH FROM THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PHILIPPINE EXCHANGE COMPANY (THE PNB SUBSIDIARY DESIGNATED AS THE SOLE SUGAR EXPORTING AGENCY) HAS PUBLISHED ON TWO SUCCESSIVE DAYS A SIX-INCH THREE COLUMN AD ANNOUNCING THAT IT HAS NOT ENGAGED ANY AGENT OR REPRESENTATIVE TO TRANSACT THE EXPORT OR TRADING OF SUGAR ON ITS BEHALF. THE AD INFORMS THAT ANY PERSON PURPORTING TO REPRESENT PHILEX SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE OR MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

5. THIS AD IS IN RESPONSE TO EFFORTS BY ONE JULIO LEDESMA OF PASIG, RIZAL WHO HAS BEEN SOLICITING TRADING AUTHORIZATIONS FROM SUGAR PLANTERS IN NEGROS. HE REPORTEDLY HAD SEVERAL ASSISTANTS WORKING FOR HIM, AND THEY ARE NOW THE OBJECT OF A MANHUNT.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, SUGAR, PRICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MANILA 16435  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADOR BENEDICTO AGAIN DEFENDS GOP SUGAR POLICY  
**TAGS:** EAGR, RP, (BENEDICTO, ROBERTO S)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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